

CITY COUNCIL REPORT



Meeting Date: February 8, 2022
General Plan Element: Open Space & Recreation
General Plan Goal: Preserve Open Space

ACTION

APS Payment for Habitat Improvements in the Preserve. Adopt Resolution No. 12395:

1. Accepting a \$500,000 payment from Arizona Public Service (APS) and committing the funds for evaluation, design, invasive plant removal, restoration, and habitat improvements, including interpretive and educational display signage, in areas of the Preserve north of Dynamite Boulevard, in the general vicinity of the existing APS powerline corridors;
2. Authorizing a FY 2021/22 budget transfer totaling \$500,000 from the Special Programs Fund Appropriation Contingency to a newly created special programs center in the Community Services Division, Preserve Management Department to record related expenses; and
3. Approving expenditure of these funds

BACKGROUND

For several years APS has been working on new and existing powerlines that required work in existing easements of theirs within the Preserve. The work included poles, wires, related equipment, and vegetation management in the areas north of Dynamite Blvd.

APS Forestry, Fire and Resource Division evaluated trees, cacti and other vegetation within their easements and determined that certain plants conflicted with the new and existing powerlines and would require removal and/or treatment to maintain safe, reliable operation of the powerlines.

As part of the APS project evaluation, they determined that payments to the city of Scottsdale would be appropriate to compensate for the impacted plants and allow for restoration improvements and education efforts that have been generally planned for areas near the trailheads in the Preserve north of Dynamite Blvd. In addition to this payment, APS is also prepared to commit to a joint cooperative vegetation management program with Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve Staff in this same

region of the Preserve. A separate agreement will be prepared and brought forward in the future to address these cooperative commitments.

With acceptance of this initial payment, City staff recommends the funds be committed by Council to be used for providing plants, restoration of historic disturbed areas, removal of non-indigenous plants, and adding interpretive education signage about Preserve efforts.

ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT

The acceptance of this payment will allow city staff to further pursue project planning, design and improvement plans for the restoration and vegetation management in the northern Preserve areas.

OPTIONS & STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommended Approach

Adopt Resolution No. 12395:

1. Accepting a \$500,000 payment from Arizona Public Service (APS) and committing the funds for evaluation, design, invasive plant removal, restoration, and habitat improvements, including interpretive and educational display signage, in areas of the Preserve north of Dynamite Boulevard, in the general vicinity of the existing APS powerline corridors;
2. Authorizing a FY 2021/22 budget transfer totaling \$500,000 from the Special Programs Fund Appropriation Contingency to a newly created special programs center in the Community Services Division, Preserve Management Department to record related expenses; and
3. Approving expenditure of these funds.

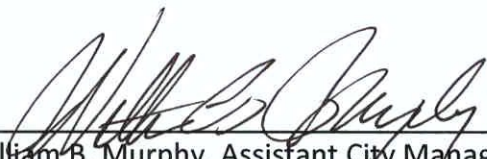
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT(S)

Community Services division, Preserve Management Department

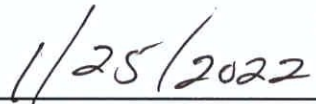
STAFF CONTACT(S)

Kroy S. Ekblaw, Executive Assistant Strategic Projects, kekblaw@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

APPROVED BY



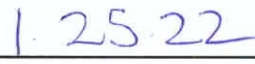
William B. Murphy, Assistant City Manager
(480) 312-7954, bmurphy@scottsdaleaz.gov



Date



Judy Doyle, Budget Director
(480) 312-2603, jdoyle@scottsdaleaz.gov



Date

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 12395

RESOLUTION NO. 12395

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, ACCEPTING A \$500,000 MONETARY PAYMENT FROM ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE (APS) AND COMMITTING THE FUNDS FOR EVALUATION, DESIGN, INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL, RESTORATION, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING INTERPRETIVE AND EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY SIGNAGE, IN AREAS OF THE PRESERVE NORTH OF DYNAMITE BOULEVARD; AUTHORIZING A FY 2021/22 BUDGET TRANSFER TOTALING \$500,000 FROM THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS FUND APPROPRIATION CONTINGENCY TO A NEWLY CREATED SPECIAL PROGRAMS CENTER IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION, PRESERVE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT; AND APPROVING EXPENDITURE OF THESE FUNDS.

WHEREAS, the City of Scottsdale (City) owns the land located northeast of the intersection of Pima Road and Dynamite Boulevard for which Arizona Public Service (APS) has historically held the right-of-way for 69kV and 345kV Transmission Line Corridors and has been dedicated as Preserve land;

WHEREAS, as permitted by law, APS maintains a 69kV power line, known as "Dale to Via Dona," along the north side of their 345kV line within the APS transmission right-of-way, which requires removal of some plants to maintain a safe, reliable operation of the powerline;

WHEREAS, APS supports the City's efforts to protect the Sonoran Desert and desires to provide the City with \$500,000 to compensate for the costs the City will incur in the evaluation, planning, and design to remove invasive plants, revegetate, and restore habitats and related vegetation management in areas north of Dynamite Boulevard within Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona, as follows:

Section 1. The City Council hereby accepts the monetary payment of \$500,000 from APS and commits the funds to be used for evaluation, design, invasive plant removal, restoration, and habitat improvements, including interpretive and educational display signage, in areas of the Preserve north of Dynamite Boulevard.

Section 2. The City Council hereby authorizes a FY 2021/22 budget transfer totaling \$500,000 from the Special Programs Fund Appropriation Contingency to a newly created special programs center in the Community Services Division, Preserve Management Department to record related expenses.

Section 3. The City Council hereby authorizes and approves expenditure of the \$500,000 payment for the purposes outlined in Section 1 of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona this _____ day of _____, 2022.


CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, an Arizona
municipal corporation

ATTEST:

Ben Lane, City Clerk

David D. Ortega, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sherry R. Scott, City Attorney
By: Joe Padilla, Deputy City Attorney